

their jobs in the last two years, we should be doing more. This plan leaves over one million unemployed behind, and fails to provide them the benefits they need to put food on the table, clothes on their backs, and a roof over their heads.

We also should be extending this benefit for 26 weeks, not just 13. Although the bill provides that in high unemployment states jobless workers would be eligible for 13 more weeks—in addition to the 13 extra weeks available to all jobless workers who have exhausted their 26 weeks of regular benefits—the entire country is in need of this assistance. Because of the strict requirements for a state to qualify as a high unemployment state under this program, only six states currently qualify—Alaska, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Washington. We should pass the full Democratic package immediately to help everyone seeking work, not just the few.

Research shows that during previous recessions, the stimulative power of unemployment benefits saved an average of 131,000 jobs and slowed the drop in the Gross Domestic Product by 15 percent. National studies have shown that \$1 in unemployment insurance leads to \$2.15 worth of economic growth.

Every week without unemployment insurance benefits, states lose \$200 million in cash—cash that in all likelihood would be spent at the local grocery store and the local gas station. Indeed, a recent study by Economy.com, an independent financial research group, found that the single most effective stimulus measure would be further extension of emergency Federal unemployment insurance benefits.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation unfortunately is long overdue, and very necessary. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 2158, and quickly send this legislation to the Senate to ensure these benefits continue uninterrupted.

IN HONOR OF CAROLYN "CJ"
JONES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to acknowledge Ms. Carolyn "CJ" Jones for her many years of public service and for the depth and diversity of contributions she has made to my staff and to so many people in Colorado.

Upon my election to the 2nd Congressional District in 1998, CJ was the first person I invited to join my staff. She was instrumental in organizing my campaign effort in Adams County, and in the early days after my election, she organized our fledgling congressional office from the basement of her house and took constituent inquiries on her cell phone. CJ Jones assisted in training many of my novice staff members and has subsequently set the standard of excellence for my office in the 2nd Congressional District.

Prior to becoming my staff assistant, CJ served in the offices of Senator Tim Wirth and Congressman David Skaggs. She is also the only member of my staff with her own election certificate—this to the Adams County School District 12 Board. Throughout her distin-

guished career, she has served successfully in numerous capacities. Her knowledge of Adams County politics is encyclopedic, and her insistence on application of House Ethics Rules has become legendary with members of my staff. We will deeply miss the staff parties at her home, her annual Christmas carols—which started with the earliest snowfall in September—and her tendency to break into song at any moment. Coworkers will also recall those rare moments in CJ's career when her blue eyes turned steely gray, signaling a red alert to everyone in the vicinity.

One of the things I share with CJ is a deep interest in young people. She has been the driving force behind my annual Youth Washington Seminar and she has mentored young people, chaperoning high school students in Washington with care and joy. She has shown young Coloradans that politics is not just about policy debates and electioneering, but also about having fun. High School students visiting Washington with her could always count on a visit to the monuments, but also a visit to the Hard Rock Café. To serve so broadly, so successfully, and with such grace, heart, and spirit is deserving of recognition.

CJ plans to spend some well-deserved time relaxing and traveling with her husband Bill, and spoiling her grandchildren. As a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother, CJ will continue to be the center of her family and the light of their lives. I know that they look forward to having her undivided attention and time. She will no doubt continue to be a force to be reckoned with in the arena of her garden and home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to CJ Jones for her exemplary public service to the people of Colorado and their elected officials. Her many accomplishments go beyond reckoning, and I wish her good health and happiness in the future.

HONORING SHAAN GANDHI, OF
BATTLE CREEK, MI, LEGRAND
SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Shaan Gandhi, winner of the 2003 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Shaan is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Shaan is an exceptional student at Harper Creek High School, and possesses an outstanding record of achievement in high school. Shaan has received numerous awards for his excellence in science and math, as well as his volunteer activities with the Calhoun County Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Substance Abuse Council of Battle Creek. A

Siemens-Westinghouse Scholar, Shaan has also participated in the NASA SHARP PLUS program, is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist, and has been accepted to Harvard University.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Shaan Gandhi for his selection as winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2, JOBS AND GROWTH RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the facts are startling. In just over 2 years, this administration has taken a vibrant economy and turned it into a total mess. Once we saw projected federal surpluses for years, but now we see unprecedented deficits as far as the eye can see. Once we saw Americans working in good paying jobs, but now we see over two million jobs lost and families needing help to make ends meet. Once we saw states thriving and providing much needed benefits to the most needy, but now we see massive state deficits that require federal assistance to close.

Something needs to be done to fix these problems. The question is what's the best way to do it? When we began the debate earlier this year about how to turn around our struggling economy, I was looking for a plan that passed three simple tests. Was the plan fair? Was the plan fast-acting? Was the plan fiscally sound?

Tonight, the House is voting on the President's proposal. The answer to all three of these simple questions is a resounding "no." Is it fair?

The other side likes to point out that the average family will receive about \$1,000 in tax breaks. What they don't tell you is that 53 percent of all taxpayers—yes, 53 percent of all taxpayers—will see less than \$100 in their pockets. However, if you make over \$1 million a year, you get a tax cut of \$93,500. This clearly is not fair.

Is it fast acting?

Well, it's going to take effect this year. Yes, that much is true. Unfortunately, the President's plan gives the break this year and next, then it takes it away again in 2005. So, the average middle class taxpayer will actually see their taxes go up 2 years from now. And this trickle-down tax policy will not stimulate the economy now. In fact, it totally depends on those who benefit—the few—to reinvest their windfall down the road. In fact, there is no guarantee that any of this will happen, so there is no guarantee that this tax cut will generate any jobs, let alone the one million promised by the President.

Is it fiscally sound?

The answer is a resounding no. The dividend tax reduction and the cut in the capital

gains rate will give us little bang for our buck. Many leading economists argue that the dividend cut especially is one of the least effective options to grow the economy.

This bill is a cruel hoax on New Mexico families. The overwhelming majority of hard-working New Mexicans will reap minimal benefits from these tax cuts. Although the final agreement hammered out by the House and Senate is much better than President Bush's original proposal, it still will not deliver much of a boost to the economy and instead increase the federal debt to be paid for by future generations.

With passage of this tax cut, Congress and the president are demonstrating their economic arrogance. Over 400 economists, 10 Nobel prize-winning economists, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and a host of other credible experts have told us that this is not the way to go. It is not good economic policy, it is not good tax policy, it is not good fiscal policy, and it is going to put us in a deeper and deeper deficit hole. Eventually interest rates will rise because of the federal debt and that's going to hit middle-income families harder than the wealthy individuals who benefit the most from this misguided bill.

Two years ago, President Bush told us that we could enact his policies and virtually eliminate the debt held by the public by 2008. Now, the Bush Administration is asking Congress to raise the debt limit by almost \$1 trillion. It is an unprecedented turn of events. Those in the White House and their allies who want to eventually end the role of the federal government as we know it today—in education, homeland security, health care, Social Security, Medicare, veterans' benefits and other basic services—are well on their way.

The only beneficial provisions included here are the ones that we included in our alternative plan: raising the refundable child tax credit, speeding up tax relief for married couples, preventing more individuals from being hit by the alternative minimum tax, small business expensing, and the financial aid to the states. Unfortunately, these redeemable items will be strangled by the capital gains and dividends tax breaks for the few.

In 2001, I voted against the Bush tax cut bill because it was too skewed toward the wealthiest Americans and too fiscally irresponsible. Since then, we have gone from record surpluses to record deficits, and the economy is still floundering. Passing another enormous tax cut this year will only continue this trend and increase the economic problems that our children and grandchildren will inherit.

Tonight, I will do so again. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this conference report.

BRUCE WOODBURY POST OFFICE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to one of Southern Nevada's most distinguished citizens, Commissioner Bruce Woodbury. I have introduced legislation to name the United States Postal Service facility in Boulder City, Nevada in his honor.

I have worked closely with the members of the City Council of Boulder City, and the Mayor of Boulder City, Robert Ferraro, to appropriately thank Commissioner Woodbury for his many contributions to the great State of Nevada.

Commissioner Woodbury is a native of Las Vegas, and he has resided in Boulder City since 1978. He is a graduate of Las Vegas High School, and attended the University of Utah where he graduated Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Kappa, and Magna Cum Laude. Mr. Woodbury then attended Stanford School of Law where he earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence and was a member of the Board of Editors of the Stanford Law Review.

In Southern Nevada, Commissioner Woodbury has served for many years as an outstanding civic leader. He has served as a member of the Clark County Commission for 21 years and on the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada for 17 years, the last 11 as that body's chairman. The magnitude of his contributions are seen by Nevadans every day. Commissioner Woodbury was instrumental in gathering support for the construction of the Las Vegas Beltway, the largest and most visible transportation project ever undertaken in Clark County. Through his leadership, Commissioner Woodbury has worked to minimize traffic delays, reduce inconvenience for drivers, and maintain access to local businesses.

In addition, Mr. Woodbury has been very involved in local, civic, and youth organizations. He is also a proud father and grandfather. I am pleased to introduce this legislation honoring him today. It has been my privilege to work with Commissioner Woodbury on a variety of projects and I can speak to his character as a leader, a citizen, and as a friend.

TRIBUTE TO PONTIAC HIGH
SCHOOL'S HUSKIE BRIGADE

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Pontiac Northern High School's "Huskie Brigade" for their victory at the U.S. FIRST Robotics National Championship in Houston, Texas last month. The twenty-four students, four teachers, and several engineers should be proud of this accomplishment.

Science and technology are the keystones to our economic prosperity. The quality education of America's youth is more critical now than ever as our society becomes more wired and globalized. Our students must be interested in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology to continue our success.

The For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) competition instills an appreciation of science and technology in students and teaches them how mastering these institutes can enrich our society. Corporations provide economic and professional support to FIRST and teams. General Motors Powertrain sponsored Pontiac Northern High School's team. Many Fortune 500 companies have significantly contributed to FIRST's growth and government organizations such as NASA are key partners. FIRST represents a cooperative team effort by stu-

dents, teachers, communities, corporations, and our government.

The Huskie Brigade competed in two regional events leading up to the National Competition. At the Great Lakes Regional, they were awarded the prestigious 2003 Regional Chairman's Award. At the Mid-West Regional, the Huskie Brigade finished as a finalist and won the Johnson and Johnson's Sportsman-ship Award.

I congratulate the Huskie Brigade on their fine achievements and awards and wish nothing but the best for all the members in their future endeavors.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO
SAMANTHA BENTON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, I rise today to convey my deepest appreciation to a member of my Washington, D.C. staff for her dedicated service to the people of Oregon's Second Congressional District. Samantha Benton left my staff last week to join the United States Department of the Treasury. I wish her well in this endeavor and am confident that she will excel in her new role.

Samantha was raised in my hometown of Hood River, Oregon, growing up on a family-owned orchard along the Columbia River Gorge. Her parents, John and Julie Benton, are well-respected members of the Hood River community and personal friends of mine. Samantha brought her "small town values" from rural Oregon to our nation's capital and to the job she performed assisting Oregonians visiting Washington, D.C. or seeking help from my office. She attended Westside Elementary School and Hood River Middle School before graduating from Hood River Valley High School in 1997. She then went on to attend the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, where she studied history and was active as Vice President of Program Development for the University's Zeta chapter of Alpha Phi. Samantha's interest in politics was apparent during her college years, when she worked as an intern in two Congressional offices. Samantha worked as an intern in my Washington, D.C. office during the summer of 1999, then worked in Congresswoman JENNIFER DUNN's Mercer Island District Office in 2000.

After her graduation in 2001, I was pleased to offer Samantha a permanent position on my staff. From the beginning of her tenure, she made Oregonians feel at home when they walked through the door of 1404 Longworth by offering them a warm and sincere reception. She faithfully attended to every detail in helping families navigate the sights and sounds of Washington, D.C. Time and again, she brought history to life by leading tours of the Capitol for Oregonians who had come nearly 3,000 miles so that they and their children could better understand the federal government and our nation's extraordinary history. Samantha arranged their itineraries, answered their questions, and went the extra mile every time to make them feel comfortable an entire continent away from their homes. In short, Mr.